

near the celebrated pitch lake at La Brea, in northeastern Venezuela. The twenty days' observations there made are the basis of the present paper, which gives a short account of the general character of the region, followed by an annotated list of about 140 species of birds, of which 22 were breeding. The notes on the habits of many of the species are quite extended, occupying from half a page to several pages, as in the case of the Yellow-backed Cassique. The paper closes with 'Part V. Ecological Conclusions,' in which is made a comparison of the bird life of Venezuela with that of the State of New York, with a full-page chart illustrative of "Arboreal Adaptive Radiation."—J. A. A.

Report on the Immigration of Summer Residents in England and Wales in the Spring of 1908.—The fourth Report of the Committee of the British Ornithologists' Club on the spring migration of birds into England and Wales during 1908 forms, as usual, a special volume of the 'Bulletin' of the Club.¹ This report is similar in character to those of previous years, giving first an account of the weather for each day of the period covered by the immigration (March 14–May 31), noting as well the daily arrivals of birds, followed by details of the chief movements observed at the lights during the same period, with maps for each of the thirty-three species scheduled. There are also notes on migratory movements during the autumn of 1907, and records from the lighthouses and lightships for the same period. As heretofore, generalizations relating to the general subject are held in reserve and will not be attempted till the observations have been continued for a much longer period.—J. A. A.

L. H. Miller on California Fossil Birds.—Recent exploration of the Quaternary asphalt Rancho La Brea beds in southern California has resulted in the discovery of abundant remains of birds as well as mammals, part of which represent forms now living in California, while part belong to extinct types only remotely allied to any known living forms. These asphalt beds have for ages proved a trap for the unwary bird or mammal that chanced to visit them. The oil from the oil strata that is forced to the surface accumulates in the natural depressions of the surface as small lakelets, which through evaporation become "masses of a plastic and marvelously tenacious and tar-like substance." Mr. Miller describes² these tar-pools as possessing "the mirror-like surface of water and, especially at night, might be mistaken for such; yet the bird whose wing-tip touches the innocent looking surface, or whose foot plashes into its margin,

¹ Report on the Immigration of Summer Residents in the Spring of 1908: also Notes on the Migratory Movements and Records received from Lighthouses and Light-vessels during the Autumn of 1907. By the Committee appointed by the British Ornithologist's Club, = Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club, Vol. XXIV, November, 1909. Pp. 235, with 29 maps.

² Fossil Birds of the Quaternary of Southern California. By Loye Holmes Miller. The Condor, Vol. XII, Jan., 1910, pp. 12–15.